

HETEROTHECA CHIHUAHUANA (COMPOSITAE: ASTEREEAE), NEW
SITES AND OBSERVATIONS ON ITS TYPE LOCALITY

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ABSTRACT

Heterotheca chihuahuana has previously been reported only from the state of Chihuahua, México, but recent collections extend its range into west central and southern Durango. Its type locality is almost certainly from southernmost Chihuahua.

KEY WORDS: *Heterotheca*, Asteraceae, Astereae, México

In the original description of *Osbertia chihuahuana* Turner & Sundberg, its authors (1986) noted that it was known from only a single collection, and they mapped the type locality in west central Chihuahua (México: Chihuahua. Llano Grande, 10 May 1960, *Pennington 59* (HOLOTYPE: TEX). Based on its similarities to *Heterotheca mexicana* Harms ex B. Turner and *H. vanderendorum* B. Turner, Turner (1987) transferred the species to the genus *Heterotheca*.

At the present time, CIIDIR-IPN-Unidad Durango is developing a Flora of Durango. In the course of a collecting program towards this end, recent collections of *Heterotheca chihuahuana* show that the species has a much wider distribution than originally known. These new collections, which are from the Sierra Madre Occidental of Durango, are mapped in Figure 1 and reported in detail here: MÉXICO. Durango: 7.5 km al SE de La Guacamayita (Sierra Azul) Mpio. de El Mezquital, alt. 2840 m, bosque de *Quercus sideroxylo*, *Quercus* sp., *Cupressus*, *Pinus* sp., 23-V-87, M. González y S. Acevedo 2232 (CIIDIR); 7.5 km al NE de Llano Grande de Milpillas Chico, Mpio. de Pueblo Nuevo, alt. 2300-2350, bosque de *Quercus*, *Pinus*, *Cupressus*, y *Alnus*, 25-V-87, M. González y S. Acevedo 2287 (CIIDIR); San Miguel de Cruces, Mesa del Roble, Mpio. de San Dimas, alt. 2740 m, bosque de *Pinus durangensis*, *P. teocote* con *Juniperus*, *Arbutus*, *Arctostaphylos*, 26-V-90, A. García y S. Acevedo 349 (CIIDIR); San Miguel de Cruces, 250 m, al oeste de Veredas

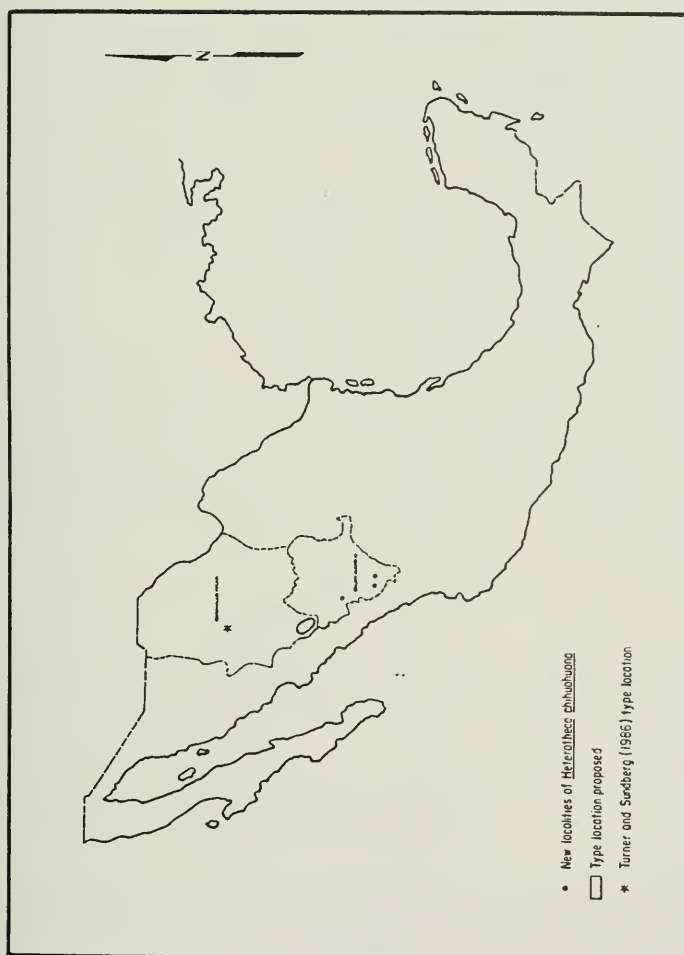


Figure 1. Updated distribution map of *Heterotheca chihuahuana*.

camino a Puertecillas, Mpio. de San Dimas, alt. 2760 m, bosque de *Pinus teocote*, *P. ayacauite* con *Juniperus*, 27-V-90, A. García, M. González, y S. Acevedo 384 (CIIDIR).

The new collections and a reconsideration of the type locality of *Heterotheca chihuahuana* lead me to believe that the original collection was made in southern Chihuahua rather than the west central part of the state, as mapped by Turner & Sundberg (1986). The label of the type specimen noted that the plants were used as pasturage for domestic animals by the Tepehuan Indians and that its collection locality was "Llano Grande." Its collector, Campbell Pennington, made a number of plant collections in the area inhabited the Tepehuans and published a book about the Northern Tepehuans from both historical and anthropological points of view (Pennington 1969). There are many places called Llano Grande along the Sierra Madre Occidental, since this name means literally "big plain," a landscape frequently encountered in the area. The Llano Grande noted on the collection label, however, almost certainly refers to a locality in Chihuahua where the Tepehuans were settled long before 1960. In fact, Pennington (1969) observed that the native people live in the municipios of Morelos and Guadalupe y Calvo, Chihuahua, which are in the southernmost part of the state near the border of Durango. Figure 1 shows the probable area of the type collection, which is biogeographically more closely related to the recent collections to the south.

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